

5 FAM 230

THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)

*(CT:IM-125; 12-20-2011)
(Office of Origin: WHA/USOAS)*

5 FAM 231 GENERAL

(TL:IM-28; 11-01-1999)

- a. Since 1948, the U.S. Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States (OAS) has been the appropriate channel for official business between the U.S. Government and the USOAS in Washington, and permanent and observer missions accredited to it.
- b. All diplomatic communications to the OAS or its missions must be coordinated with the U.S. Permanent Representative or a person designated by the U.S. Permanent Representative.
- c. All U.S. Government agencies must first consult USOAS before entering into any agreements with the OAS, especially those agreements that may impact the U.S. Government's resources and/or the OAS budget.

5 FAM 232 SCOPE AND AUTHORITY

(TL:IM-125; 12-20-2011)

- a. This policy establishes the proper channels for communicating with the OAS. It applies to all forms of communication from any Department of State office or post to any OAS office or entity, including any OAS-related Inter-American organization of which the United States is a member, e.g.:
 - (1) The Pan American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH);
 - (2) *The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR);*
 - (3) The Inter-American Indian Institute (III);
 - (4) The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation On Agriculture (IICA); and
 - (5) To any proposed discussions or visits with OAS officials and those representing OAS missions.
- b. The authority for this policy is the State Department Basic Authorities Act

- of 1956, as amended, *22 U.S.C. 2651a*.
- c. Nothing in this policy authorizes any interference with the independence of the Office of the Inspector General (*OIG*) or the conduct of its work in accordance with the provisions of *1 FAM 050* and the underlying legal authorities establishing the *OIG*.
 - d. This authority shall not impair the authority of the Office of Foreign Missions to carry out its mandate under the Foreign Missions Act, *22 U.S.C. Chapter 53*, respecting the OAS and missions to the OAS.

5 FAM 233 RESPONSIBILITY

(*TL:IM-28; 11-01-1999*)

The Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA) coordinates all communications from the Department to the OAS through the USOAS. WHA/USOAS ensures that all proposed communications fall within the scope and authority of the Department.

5 FAM 234 COORDINATING VISITS WITH OAS

(*TL:IM-28; 11-01-1999*)

Visits from the Department or other Government officials to OAS officials in Washington or representatives of OAS Missions should be handled in advance. USOAS should be notified in writing, when possible, so that USOAS may make proper substantive and administrative arrangements, if necessary. At the Permanent Representative's discretion, a staff member of USOAS may accompany officials on visits.

5 FAM 235 OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE INTERAMERICAN SYSTEM

(*CT:IM-66; 09-14-2005*)

All official communications and visits with officials of other inter-American organizations must adhere to the policy in 5 FAM 233.

5 FAM 236 THROUGH 239 UNASSIGNED